



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

November 14, 2019

OFFICE OF THE  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

Mr. Nick Surgey  
MuckRock  
DEPT MR 40087  
Somerville, Massachusetts 02144

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request EPA-HQ-2017-009538

Dear Mr. Surgey:

This letter concerns the above-referenced Freedom of Information Act request received by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on July 18, 2017, which requested a copy of "prepared remarks .(talking points, written speeches, scripts, powerpoint presentations, etc) for EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt when he has attended external events. A search may be limited to records created between 2/17/2017 an 7/16/2017."

A search of the EPA's Office of the Administrator for records responsive to your request produced 94 pages of records. On June 6, 2019 we informed you that the records were being withheld in full pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(5), the Deliberative Process Privilege. You filed an administrative appeal on July 22, 2019. The Office of General Counsel partially affirmed and partially reversed your appeal and remanded your request to the Office of the Administrator.

We have re-reviewed the 94 pages and made the determination that portions of these records need to be withheld pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(5), the Deliberative Process Privilege. The withholdings are exempt from disclosure because they are predecisional and deliberative and would harm agency decision-making if released.

This letter concludes our response to your request. You may seek dispute resolution services from EPA's FOIA public liaison at [hq.foia@epa.gov](mailto:hq.foia@epa.gov) or (202) 566-1667 or from the Office of Government Information Services. You may contact OGIS with an email to [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov); by calling (202) 741-5770 or (877) 684-6448; with a fax to (202) 741-5769; or by mail to Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8610 Adelphi Road, Room 2510, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001.

If you have any questions about this response, please contact Victor Farren at (202) 564-0808 or [farren.victor@epa.gov](mailto:farren.victor@epa.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth B. White". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Elizabeth" being more prominent than the last name "White".

Elizabeth B. White  
Director